

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention based on, for example, pages 11-12 of the specification, and to delete "wherein the porous film has a porosity of 20-95%". Claim 9 has been amended to recite a porosity of 20-95% as originally recited.

Since there are no issues of new matter, entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yuji et al. (JP 2002-110245; hereinafter "JP '245") in view of Nagou et al. (US 5,238,735).

Basically, the Examiner asserts that JP '245 discloses that the liquid crosslinkable composition containing an oxetane group and an epoxy group is injected into an airtight container, which has units such as electrodes and a separator.

Claim 1 recites a crosslinking polymer-supported porous film for battery separator, the crosslinking polymer-supported porous film comprising: a porous film substrate; and a polymer layer formed on the porous film substrate so as to be in contact with the porous film substrate; the polymer layer comprising a crosslinking polymer in a state that the crosslinking polymer is not polymerized, the crosslinking polymer having plural cation-polymerizable functional groups in the molecule and being polymerizable in the presence of cation.

In the present invention, a crosslinking polymer layer is formed on the porous film substrate, which is different from Yuji, which discloses a liquid polymer composition (contains components other than the polymer, such as mixed solvent solutions of an ethylene carbonate/diethyl carbonate/dimethyl carbonate with dissolved hexafluoro-phosphate lithium)

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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injected between an electrode and a separator. *See* pages 11-12 of the specification. In addition, Yuji does not disclose that the unpolymerized polymer (without the other components) is applied to the surface of the porous film substrate by, for example, coating to form a layer or molding the crosslinking polymer into a film by melt extrusion.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Yuji does not teach or suggest the crosslinking polymer supported porous film, particularly the polymer layer of claim 1.

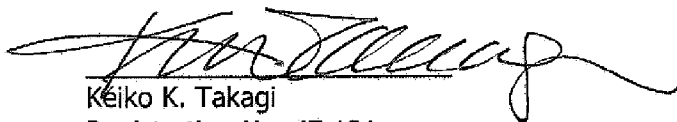
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 are patentable over Yuji, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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